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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your justice like the ocean depths. You clothe the meadows and provide carpet for the valleys.

Lord, You have given us the new chapter of another week with opportunities and challenges. We have opportunities to build bridges and to mend the defective. But we face the challenges of a world filled with divisive forces that desecrate and destroy. May the things

that unite us overcome the powers that divide us.

Today, bless Your servants in this place with patience. Remind them that laudable goals usually take time. Slow us down, Lord, that we may take time to appreciate Your many blessings. Keep us from feelings of futility and may we feel the uplift of Your everlasting arms. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations measure. We were unable to reach an agreement for finishing the bill, and it is unclear how much further progress we can make on this bill. At this time, we will continue with the bill this afternoon and make a determination later today as to whether the Senate can complete action on this important measure.

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If the 108th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before November 21, 2003, a final issue of the Congressional Record for the 108th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Monday, December 15, 2003, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

ROBERT W. NEY, *Chairman*.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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